AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1 (canceled).

2 (original). An apparatus for reproducing information stored in an optical recording medium which comprises marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than $\lambda/2NA$, wherein λ is a wavelength of light used for reproduction and NA is an numerical aperture of an objective lens, said apparatus comprising:

a first detecting system for generally detecting optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch not less than $\lambda/2NA$;

a second detecting system for generally detecting optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than $\lambda/2NA$; and

a signal processing circuit for reproducing information by combining the signals detected by the first detecting system with the signals detected by the second detecting system.

3 (original). An apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the second detecting system comprises a shielding band for shielding at least a middle of a bundle of rays.

4 (original). A method for reproducing information stored in an optical recording medium which comprises marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than $\lambda/2NA$, wherein λ is a wavelength of light used for reproduction and NA is an numerical aperture of an objective lens, said method comprising the steps of:

detecting first optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch not less than $\lambda/2NA$;

detecting second optical signals from marks or pits which are arranged at a pitch less than $\lambda/2NA$ while shielding at least a middle of each bundle of rays coming from each of the marks or pits so as to detect the rays located in a periphery of each bundle with respect to a track direction; and

reproducing information from the first signals and the second signals.